

Scott Urbanowski

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Labor Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Haadsma and members of the House Labor Committee:

I urge the committee and the full House to pass House Bills 4004, 4005, and 4007.

I want to thank this committee for conducting this hearing in the first place. By merely holding this hearing, this committee has already shown more transparency on repealing Michigan's so-called "right-to-freeload" law than we saw when it was passed in 2012. I also wish to thank my friend, Representative Weiss, for leading on this important issue of fairness, as well as Representative Carter for leading on the reinstatement of prevailing wage.

I am a proud member of the National Writers Union, a directly affiliated local union under the AFL-CIO, as well as Pride at Work, the LGBTQ+ constituency group of the AFL-CIO. While I offer this written testimony for myself and not on behalf of any of these groups, I can tell you that many of my labor siblings share my opposition to misnamed "right to work" laws as well as my support for prevailing wage.

From the sit-down strike of 1937 to recent organizing efforts at Starbucks and Lake Michigan Credit Union, Michigan has a proud history of supporting workers' rights. My grandfather was part of that; he was proud to belong to the UAW while working at Ford's world-famous River Rouge plant for 45 years.

During the 2010s, a number of laws were passed that sought to undermine Michigan's rich labor heritage and inhibit workers' ability to bargain for fair wages and good working conditions. The bills before you today would help return our state to its roots while protecting the rights of the workers who make Michigan the best state in the nation.

This Friday would've been my grandfather's 100th birthday, and while he's been gone for nearly 19 years, I can think of no better birthday present than for this state to return to its pro-worker, pro-labor tradition. In memory of Edward C. Urbanowski, and in solidarity with all of his and my siblings in labor, I ask that you pass House Bills 4004, 4005, and 4007.

Sincerely,

Scott Urbanowski (he/him/his)
Kentwood